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**REPORT OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PRESIDING OFFICERS
OF THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Panama City, 3-4 May 2012

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean held their forty-seventh meeting on 3 and 4 May 2012 in Panama City.

Attendance¹

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following member countries in their capacity as Presiding Officers: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay.

3. Also in attendance were representatives of the following member countries of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: Colombia, France, Honduras and Japan.

4. A representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) also attended the meeting on behalf of the United Nations Secretariat.

5. The following United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were also represented: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

6. Also represented were the following specialized agencies of the United Nations: International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

7. The meeting was also attended by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: Organization of American States (OAS), Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB) and Central American Integration System (SICA).

8. A representative of the Research Centre for Feminist Action (CIPAF) of the Dominican Republic also attended the meeting.

Chair and Rapporteur

9. The Presiding Officers, as elected at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference, were as follows:

¹ See annex.

Chair: Brazil

Vice-Chairs: Antigua and Barbuda
 Argentina
 Barbados
 Chile
 Costa Rica
 Cuba
 Dominican Republic
 Ecuador
 El Salvador
 Guatemala
 Jamaica
 Panama
 Paraguay
 Peru
 Spain
 Trinidad and Tobago
 Uruguay
 Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Rapporteur: Mexico

B. AGENDA

10. The Presiding Officers adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Report on the activities carried out by the secretariat, the member countries and bodies of the United Nations system pursuant to the Brasilia Consensus.
3. Report on the region's participation in the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and in the meetings of other regional integration schemes.
4. Report on the initiatives undertaken by the host countries of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the Meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development.
5. Presentation of the proposal for updating the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean.
6. Preparations for the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

7. Presentation by the secretariat of the timetable for preparation of the position paper for the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
8. Presentation by ECLAC on productive development, gender equality, empowerment of women and information and communications technologies.
9. Adoption of agreements.
10. Other matters.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

11. At the opening session, statements were made by Niurka del Carmen Palacio, Deputy Minister for Social Development of Panama; Markelda Montenegro de Herrera, Director of the National Institute of Women of Panama; Sonia Montaña, Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Marcela Suazo, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and Eleonora Menicucci, Minister of the Secretariat on Policies for Women of Brazil, in her capacity as Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

12. After welcoming the participants to the meeting of the Presiding Officers, the Deputy Minister for Social Development of Panama said that discussion of issues such as development of production capacities, gender equality, the empowerment of women and information and communications technologies (ICTs) at the next session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean would facilitate the adoption at the national level of public policies that responded to the needs of women. She underscored the need to build appropriate skills and infrastructure to ensure access by women to information and communication technologies (ICTs) and reduce the burden of unpaid domestic work that they bore.

13. The Director of the National Institute of Women of Panama said that the countries were clearly moving ahead successfully in fulfilling the regional agreements and urged them to redouble their efforts to achieve equality. She expressed the hope that the meeting would draw up an agenda for substantive changes designed to empower women through the adoption of public policies that would guarantee their human rights and eliminate inequality and gender discrimination in all countries of the region.

14. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs thanked the Panamanian authorities, on behalf of the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, for organizing the meeting and for their hospitality. She then went on to say that the meeting of the Presiding Officers marked a turning point towards new agendas. At its twelfth session, the members of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean would reaffirm their commitment to fulfilling international agreements —such as the Brasilia Consensus— and their belief that inequality could be overcome through traditional social and gender policies. The Conference would also reiterate its intention of ensuring that economic policy was compatible with sustainable development. She recalled that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women referred to the fact that gender equality would require policies and changes at all levels including the cultural level. Steps would be taken to harmonize the agenda of the Regional Conference with other agendas, in particular the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the

International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo+20), Agenda 21 and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Río+20). She proposed that activities should be undertaken in conjunction with the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and said that she was confident that the agreements adopted at the meeting would consolidate an agenda for scientific and technological change which would lead to opportunities for cooperation with other stakeholders and counterparts, in particular science and technology agencies and universities.

15. In her statement, the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said that the meetings of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean were an ideal opportunity to reflect on how to work towards the implementation of more equitable policies and towards universal access to reproductive rights. It was necessary to take stock of the progress made to date, identify the new realities and assess the challenges facing Governments and United Nations agencies. ECLAC and UNFPA had worked together to make available to Governments instruments which would enable them to move forward in fulfilling their international agreements. It was crucial to speed up attainment of the objectives established at the International Conference on Population and Development as the twentieth anniversary of that event (Cairo+20) drew nearer. UNFPA and other agencies had helped the national machineries to provide guidance in the adoption of gender policies and the fulfilment of agreements. Lastly, she said that the Fund remained committed to eradicating sexual violence and other human rights violations.

16. In her capacity as Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Minister of the Secretariat on Policies for Women of Brazil reaffirmed her Government's commitment to democratic and solidarity-based progress in the region and declared that the rights already acquired by women needed to be upheld, and at the same time, further advances pursued. At the meeting of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20), the challenge would be to adopt a strong and convincing document that would promote gender equality as a central pillar for building a sustainable and democratic world. The Rio+20 conference would be the opportunity to break with existing paradigms and seek an alternative to the hegemonic pattern of development, an alternative in which sustainability and economic development would be structurally combined with an egalitarian distribution of wealth, work and goods. She advocated adopting a motion at the current meeting for circulation to all participating countries and to the organizing committee of the Rio+20 Conference, reaffirming the urgent need to incorporate the gender dimension and promotion of gender equality in the declaration that was being drafted. Lastly, she urged participants to hold in-depth discussions on the position paper that would be prepared for the next session of the Regional Conference on Women.

Adoption of the agenda (agenda item 1)

17. At the invitation of the Chair, participants considered the provisional agenda and agreed on the agenda of the meeting and the organization of work as presented by the Secretariat.

Report on the activities carried out by the secretariat, the member countries and bodies of the United Nations system pursuant to the Brasilia Consensus (agenda item 2)

18. The Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs reviewed the activities carried out by the ECLAC secretariat pursuant to the Brasilia Consensus since the forty-sixth meeting of the Presiding Officers. She said that the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, which was celebrating its fifth anniversary, was highly appreciated by Governments but that fresh contributions were needed to ensure its financial sustainability. She urged the Governments of the region to support creative solutions,

such as South-South cooperation and technical assistance under which countries with experience and who were able to do so could send experts to share their knowledge with others. Together with the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), the Division for Gender Affairs was continuing to implement distance training courses on gender statistics and indicators as well as on time use surveys.

19. She added that the Division was participating in preparations for the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) as well as in other processes in which the Commission was engaged. As regards the forthcoming session of the Commission, to be held in El Salvador, the Division was considering macroeconomic issues and the changes that would be necessary in this area in order to achieve equality.

20. In response to an invitation from the Chair of the Presiding Officers, representatives of member countries reported orally on initiatives carried out to implement the Brasilia Consensus. Statements were made by the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay. In their presentations, the representatives listed the national programmes and campaigns launched to prevent violence against women and the legal instruments or legislative amendments introduced for the protection of women as well as the efforts being made to combat femicide. Reference was also made to satellite accounts on unpaid work, time-use surveys, educational campaigns for combating discrimination, programmes for empowering rural women, efforts to improve the status of Afro-descendent women and ratification by Uruguay of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers.

21. The representatives of the following United Nations agencies, programmes and funds then took the floor: United Nations Entity on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO), Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB) and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Report on the region's participation in the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and in the meetings of other regional integration schemes (agenda item 3)

22. The representative of Cuba pointed to the high level of participation by Latin American and Caribbean Governments in the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women; indeed, as many as 22 countries had sent representatives to the most recent session, which was evidence of the high degree of interest in the region. The central issue on that occasion had been the empowerment of rural women; other relevant issues such as political participation, access to health care and the preparatory process for Rio+20 were also discussed. Notwithstanding the considerable efforts deployed by delegations as well as by UN-Women, no conclusions were agreed on at the end of the session. Nevertheless, five resolutions were adopted. The representatives stressed the importance of resuming the issue of rural women at the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women. It was announced at the session that the Secretary-General had launched an initiative for the organization of a new world conference on women. That initiative implied setting new goals, even though many of those identified in Beijing had not yet been fulfilled. The representative also noted the problems faced by countries in terms of resources for participating in these activities as well as the question of their duration, which makes it difficult for the authorities of the machineries for the advancement of women to participate.

Report on the initiatives undertaken by the host countries of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the Meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development (agenda item 4)

23. The representative of Brazil, the host country for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), reported to the Presiding Officers on the activities that were being planned and, in particular, on the side event that the Chair of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean proposed to carry out in conjunction with ECLAC, the Chair of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and a representative of civil society in Brazil within the framework of Rio+20 to give visibility to the link between gender equity and sustainable development.

24. The representative of Ecuador then took the floor to report on the preparations being made in her country for the meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, to be held in Quito from 4 to 6 July 2012. A number of Ecuadorian agencies were participating, notably, the National Secretariat for Planning and Development (SENPLADES), the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC), the Ministry for Economic and Social Inclusion and the Institute of Higher National Studies. The agenda and documents of the meeting had been agreed on with ECLAC and UNFPA. The issues to be addressed were: population and sustainable development in the Caribbean, territory, public policy and sustainable development, investing in youth, gaps in access to sexual and reproductive health, indigenous peoples, territory and sustainable development. In addition, Ecuador had proposed that a panel be held to discuss alternative measurements of well-being —of good living— and another on rural development strategies.

25. The UNFPA Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean discussed the challenges faced by the region in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and said that the issue was a crucial one for the countries, but above all for individuals. Foremost among the problems to be tackled were maternal mortality, population ageing, universal access to sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence. The current situation bore no resemblance to the situation 20 years earlier. The major challenge was to achieve full implementation of legislative frameworks and the effective application of policies on equality, including those relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Most countries in the region would not be in a position to meet all the objectives of the Programme of Action by 2014 and the same applied to the Millennium Development Goals. She said that the onus was on the ministers and directors of women's institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure that those challenges were included on the development agenda of the region. Lastly, she appealed to them to redouble their efforts and support States in promoting the exercise of women's rights.

Presentation of the proposal for updating the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 5)

26. The representative of the ECLAC secretariat reported on the proposal for updating the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular with respect to the visual and graphic redesign of its website and announced that the issue selected for the annual report was the analysis of the status of women and conditional transfer programmes. It was important to forge close cooperation ties with Governments and with producers of statistics in order to make updating of the information available in the Observatory easier and more efficient.

Preparations for the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 6)

27. The representative of the Dominican Republic discussed the preparations that her country was making with a view to the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and urged other countries to cooperate in that task. She mentioned that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of her country and the Dominican Telecommunications Institute (INDOTEL) had offered their support.

28. Having paid tribute to the Dominican Republic for its efforts in the preparatory process, the representative of Cuba offered her country's support in the preparations for the twelfth session of the Regional Conference.

29. Following enquiries by some representatives on the preparation of the draft consensus of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Chief of the Division for Gender Affairs suggested, as a practical *modus operandi*, that interested Governments participate in the process, under the leadership of the host country, so that they would arrive at the Conference with a draft consensus. ECLAC would act as facilitator for dialogue among the countries. The proposal was accepted.

Presentation by the secretariat of the timetable for preparation of the position paper for the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 7)

30. It was indicated that the Division of Production, Productivity and Management and the Division for Gender Affairs were working together on the preparation of the position paper, an analytical study dealing with the issue of the empowerment of women with emphasis on economic empowerment, from a rights-based approach, and a list was given of the various analyses and studies that would be used as essential inputs. The ECLAC representative reported on the annotated outline that had been sent out to the national machineries for the advancement of women in the region and on the comments and inputs that had been received. Countries were requested to contribute by sending information and it was agreed that further progress with the document would be discussed at the next meeting of the Presiding Officers as well as at other regional forums and meetings.

Presentation by ECLAC on productive development, gender equality, empowerment of women and information and communications technologies (agenda item 8)

31. The above topic was presented by Néstor Bercovich, representative of the project on the information society, which was being executed by the Division of Production, Productivity and Management of ECLAC and by Magaly Pineda, Director of the Research Centre for Feminist Action (CIPAF) of the Dominican Republic. The representative of the project reviewed the issue of economic growth in the region in the context of the recent crises and drew attention to the improvements in social indicators and levels of inclusion that had been observed in the preceding decade. He pointed out, however, that the structural heterogeneity that was characteristic of the region was an obstacle to competitiveness and inclusive development. ECLAC was plotting out a path towards sustainability and greater equality, with mechanisms that would generate jobs in new dynamic sectors and value added in production chains and that would help to diversify the economy to include more productive activities. Information and communications technologies had an important role to play in growth, social inclusion, corporate productivity and transparency of State functions. The Director of CIPAF said that women were underrepresented in ICT careers, in managerial positions in the ICT industry and in technological

entrepreneurship. The digital divide was defined as the inequalities in access, use and harnessing of ICTs and, indeed, those technologies could be instrumental in overcoming gender inequality. Reference was also made to the significant technological divide between urban and rural areas and in terms of income, gender and age.

32. In response to an observation by the representative of Trinidad and Tobago concerning the absence of statistics relating to the countries of the Caribbean, the representative of the information society project stated that the presence of the Caribbean countries in activities relating to the Plan of Action for the Information and Knowledge Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (e-LAC 2015) needed to be strengthened and that it had been agreed that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) would participate in the Coordinating Committee of the Regional Follow-up Mechanism for eLAC 2015, which would be a great opportunity to resolve the problem. Other representatives expressed concern about the limited access to Internet among rural women. In that respect, it was pointed out that the State had an important role to play in promoting computer literacy and universal access to ICTs.

33. There being no other matters to discuss, the meeting was brought to a close.

D. ADOPTION OF AGREEMENTS

34. At their forty-seventh meeting, the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean agreed as follows:

1. *To congratulate* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean on the proposal to redesign the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean and to request the agencies to continue to support and strengthen this initiative;
2. *To continue* disseminating the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean to universities, Government forums and civil society so that this statistical and analytical tool can be used to formulate social and political Government initiatives for gender equality;
3. *To reiterate* the agreement to set up links to the website of the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean on the web pages of the national machineries for the advancement of women and to other sites of relevant international organizations on the Observatory's web page;
4. *To reaffirm* their countries' commitment to, and support for, the United Nations Secretary General's campaign "Unite to End Violence against Women";
5. *To request* the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to forward to all countries in the region the circular letter SPM/CPP/71 from the International Telecommunication Union, the main United Nations agency that specializes in information and communications technologies, inviting States to organize activities in celebration of

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (17 May), of which the theme for the current year is Women and Girls in ICT;

6. *To approve* the organization of a side event on women and sustainable development to be held on 21 June 2012 within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20);
7. *To recognize* the contribution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to the preparation of reports and studies in follow-up to world conferences, as in the case of the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+15) and the 20-year review of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo+20);
8. *To pledge* to support the preparatory process for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the light of the twentieth anniversary of that event (Cairo+20), and to promote the active participation of their Governments and of all social stakeholders interested in the fulfilment of the agenda on population and development, including the machineries for the advancement of women, especially in relation to women's rights, bearing in mind the importance of that Conference and its reaffirmation in all regional consensuses;
9. *To point out* to the Commission on the Status of Women the role played by the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as the regional intergovernmental, consensus-building body, in formulating public policies for the advancement of women, and to encourage the Commission to incorporate in the preparatory process for its sessions the agreements adopted by the Conference;
10. *To instruct* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to prepare a note for the President of the Economic and Social Council expressing the countries' concern at the lack of an outcome document at the end of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and, in that regard, to request that member States be consulted as to whether the Commission on the Status of Women should change its procedure and adopt agreements during the first week of the session, when the high-level authorities of the national machineries for the advancement of women are present; and to propose, in particular, that the agenda of the next session include once more the issue of rural women and that the date be changed so that it does not coincide with the celebration of 8 March;
11. *To request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to review the periodicity of national reports on follow-up activities to the consensuses adopted by the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean and to present at the next session of the Conference proposals for optimizing the time spent on reviewing reports and exchanging views, in order to foster cooperation among countries;

12. *To welcome* the gender mainstreaming initiatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as reflected in the work produced jointly by the Division of Production, Productivity and Management and the Division for Gender Affairs in preparing the position paper for the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;
13. *To reaffirm* the willingness of participating countries to work together on the preparation of the next session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to request the Dominican Republic to seek a participatory consensus in consultation with the other member States well in advance so as to allow sufficient time for prior analysis and reflection in order to ensure the quality of the outcome documents and the success of the Conference;
14. *To promote* closer ties between machineries for the advancement of women in the region and the agencies responsible for information and communications technologies and productive development with a view to the next session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean; to this end, to request the Commission to facilitate forums for joint dialogue;
15. *To ensure* the participation of all stakeholders involved in the agenda of the Conference, specifically that of civil society and of agencies responsible for public policies relating to information and communications technologies and development and to promote the integration of these sectors;
16. *To encourage* the inclusion of representatives of the productive development sectors and agencies specializing in information and telecommunications technologies in the national delegations attending the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;
17. *To suggest* to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean the names of competent persons in each country who might be willing to participate in panels at the next session of the Regional Conference;
18. *To request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to present the plans for the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean in November so that Governments and bodies in the United Nations system can make arrangements for their participation;
19. *To welcome* the proposal by member countries that the preparatory meetings for the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean be held in the first half of 2013;

20. *To congratulate* the Government of Uruguay on being the first country in the world to ratify the Convention concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers (Convention 189) of the International Labour Organization ; to recognize that respect for the rights of domestic workers is essential for gender equity, and to encourage other countries in the region in their efforts to support domestic workers and to ensure that their countries ratify the Convention as soon as possible;
21. *To thank* the United Nations agencies, in particular the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, for their support to delegations participating in this meeting;
22. *To propose* to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean that a meeting preparatory to the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean be held in November 2012 in the country serving as interim chair or technical secretariat of the Council of Ministers of Women's Affairs of Central America (COMMCA);
23. *To congratulate* the ministers of women's affairs of MERCOSUR for raising the status of the Specialized Meeting on Women of MERCOSUR to that of Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities on Women of MERCOSUR;
24. *To incorporate* into the work of the national and regional machineries for the advancement of women during the next two years strategies for impacting the Cairo+20 processes at the regional level, and to participate in official delegations and consultative activities in the framework of this process;
25. *To request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to mainstream gender equality into the agenda of the meeting of the ECLAC Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, which will take place in Quito from 4 to 6 July 2012;
26. *To request* countries to designate a focal point who can be in constant touch with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to deal with the requests for information for the position paper of the twelfth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean;
27. *To thank* the Government and people of Panama for their generous hospitality and efficient organization in hosting the forty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Special agreement on the incorporation of the issue of equality between women
and men on the agenda of the United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)**

The representatives of the countries participating in the forty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Bearing in mind the agreements adopted in the Mexico Consensus (2004), the Quito Consensus (2007) and the Brasilia Consensus (2010), and in other international instruments and commitments concerning women's rights and gender equality with emphasis on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, and the Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing 1995),

Recognizing that women play a fundamental role in food production, in forest management and in management of sources of natural goods and act decisively in the conservation of the environment and that the fulfillment of this role throughout the world is not matched by equal rights, fair returns or a significant role in decision-making concerning the use of natural resources,

Recognizing also that the alternatives to be developed must take into account how work and wealth are distributed so that the use of natural resources ceases to be socially and geographically concentrated in a limited number of countries and in minority sectors within countries,

Recognizing further the need for a new international economic order and a new development paradigm in which sustainability and economic development are structurally linked and in which equality and the equitable distribution of work, goods and wealth prevail,

Reaffirming the commitment to Agenda 21 and the Earth Charter, which adopted as guiding principles for consensus-building the need to introduce changes in production and consumption patterns, to guarantee the full exercise of women's human rights and the inclusion of women on an equal basis in all dimensions of life,

Urge all countries to ensure that the discussions held and conclusions reached at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) are in keeping with the commitments of Governments and with the effective inclusion of the gender perspective in combating poverty and throughout the process for achieving economic, political, social and cultural sustainability,

To this end, *urge* all countries to include in the negotiation process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) the persons responsible for the adoption of gender policies and representatives of women's movements, and to include in their official delegations to the Conference high-level authorities of the machineries for the advancement of women of their national Governments,

Call on countries to adopt a declaration that strengthens the gender perspective on the understanding that the only way to build a sustainable world is by reaffirming the interdependence of human rights, autonomy, equality, development and sustainability,

Decide to transmit the contents of the agreements adopted at the forty-seventh meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean to their respective ministries of foreign affairs.

Annex

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**A. Estados miembros de la Comisión
Member States of the Commission**

ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA/ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Representante/Representative:

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CHILE

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COLOMBIA

Representante/Representative:

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COSTA RICA

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CUBA

Representante/Representative:

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Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

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ECUADOR

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- Enidia Arroba, Directora de Desarrollo Humano y Económico, Instituto Nacional de la Mujer, e-mail: enidiamartinez@hotmail.com
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- Margot Fuentes, Directora Nacional de Auditoría General, Contraloría General de la República, e-mail: mfuentes@contraloria.gob.pa
- Dalys Batista de Pérez, Secretaria de Organización, Unión Nacional de Mujer Panameña, e-mail: dalysbatistap@yahoo.com.mx
- Marylin Vallarino, Diputada, e-mail: mvallarino@asamblea.gob.pa

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- María Gloria Báez Recalde, Directora de Relaciones Internacionales, Secretaría de la Mujer, Presidencia de la República del Paraguay, e-mail: inter@mujer.gov.py; intersmpr@gmail.com

REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA/DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Representante/Representative:

- Carmen Pérez, Directora de Políticas Públicas, Ministerio de la Mujer, e-mail: carmen.articulacion@gmail.com

TRINIDAD Y TABAGO/TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Representante/Representative:

- Ramona Ramdial, Minister of State, Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development, e-mail: genderaffairs@gmail.com

Miembros de la delegación/Delegation members:

- Hermian Smart Findlay, Gender Specialist, Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development, e-mail: hermiansmartfindlay@yahoo.com

URUGUAY

Representante/Representative:

- Francisco Purificatti, Embajador del Uruguay, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, e-mail: urupanam@cwpanama.net

VENEZUELA (REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE)/VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)

Representante/Representative:

- Uraisi Troconis, Embajada de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, e-mail: embajada1@venezuela.org.pa

**B. Secretaría de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations Secretariat**

Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos (ACNUDH)/Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

- L. Margarita Zambrano, Asesora Derechos de la Mujer y Género, e-mail: margarita.zambrano@un.org.pa

**C. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
United Nations bodies**

Entidad de las Naciones Unidas para la Igualdad de Género y el Empoderamiento de las Mujeres (ONU-Mujeres)/United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

- Moni Pizani, Directora, Centro Regional de ONU-Mujeres para América Latina y el Caribe, e-mail: moni.pizani@unwomen.org
- Nadine Gasman, Directora Regional de la Campaña del Secretario General “ÚNETE para poner fin a la violencia contra las mujeres”, e-mail: nadine.gasman@unwomen.org
- María Isabel Miguel, Analista de Programas, Campaña del Secretario General “ÚNETE para poner fin a la violencia contra las mujeres”, e-mail: maria.miguel@unwomen.org

Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas (UNFPA)/United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

- Marcela Suazo, Directora Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, e-mail: suazo@unfpa.org
- Ana Elena Badilla, Asesora Regional en Género y Juventud para América y el Caribe, e-mail: badilla@unfpa.org
- Laura Flores, Representante Auxiliar, Oficina de Panamá, e-mail: laura.flores@unfpa.org.pa

Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia (UNICEF)/United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- Maite Onochie, Especialista de Primera Infancia, Oficina Regional de UNICEF para América Latina y el Caribe, e-mail: monochie@unicef.org

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- Carmen De La Cruz, Responsable Área de Género del Centro Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, e-mail: carmen.delacruz@undp.org

Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

- Margarita Astrálaga, Directora y Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, e-mail: margarita.astralaga@pnuma.org; vilma.aguina@pnuma.org
- Andrea Brusco, Oficial Legal, e-mail: andrea.brusco@pnuma.org; andrea.brusco@unep.org

Programa Conjunto de las Naciones Unidas sobre el VIH/SDA (ONUSIDA)/Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

- César A. Núñez Z., Director Regional, e-mail: nunezc@unaids.org

D. Organismos especializados Specialized agencies

Organización Internacional del Trabajo (OIT)/International Labour Organization (ILO)

- María José Chamorro Agudo, Especialista de Género de la OIT en San José, Costa Rica, e-mail: chamorro@ilo.org

Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (FAO)/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

- Soledad Parada, Consultora senior en género de FAO/RLC, e-mail: soledad.parada@fao.org

Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS)-Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)/World Health Organization (WHO)-Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

- Isabel Noguer, Asesora Principal, Oficina de Género, Diversidad y Derechos Humanos (GDR), e-mail: nogueri@paho.org
- Shelly Abdool, Asesora Regional Género, e-mail: abdools@paho.org
- Florence Ivette Levy Wilson, Asesora Regional Diversidad Cultural y Género, e-mail: levyif@paho.org

E. Otras organizaciones intergubernamentales Other intergovernmental organizations

Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA)/Organization of American States (OAS)

- Carmen Moreno, Secretaria Ejecutiva, Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres (CIM), e-mail: cmoreno@oas.org
- Embajadora Abigail Castro de Pérez, Representante OEA en Panamá, e-mail: oaspanama@oas.org

Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB)/ Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB)

- María Jesús Aranda, Asesora de Género, División de Asuntos Sociales, e-mail: consultora.mjaranda@segib.org
- Doris Osterlof Obregon, Directora de la Oficina de Representación para Centroamérica y Haití de la SEGIB, e-mail: dosterlof@segib.org; segibpanama@gmail.com

Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA)/Central American Integration System (SICA)

- Miosotis Rivas Peña, Secretaria Técnica de la Mujer, Consejo de Ministras de la Mujer de Centroamérica (COMMCA/SICA), e-mail: mrivas@sica.int

F. Otros invitados Others

- Magaly Pineda, Directora Ejecutiva, Centro de Investigación para la Acción Femenina (CIPAF), e-mail: magalypt@gmail.com

**G. Secretaría
Secretariat**

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- Sonia Montaña, Directora, División de Asuntos de Género/Chief, Division for Gender Affairs, e-mail: sonia.montano@cepal.org
- Luis Yáñez, Oficial a cargo, Oficina de la Secretaría de la Comisión/Officer in charge, Secretary of the Commission, e-mail: luis.yanez@cepal.org
- Pamela Villalobos, Oficial de Asuntos Sociales, División de Asuntos de Género/Social Affairs Officer, Division for Gender Affairs, e-mail: pamela.villalobos@cepal.org
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